

Message Text

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10/71
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 ITC-01 STR-04

/059 W

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R 301710Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 746
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3619

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN SHLD READ 3619 VICE 6319)

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, NU
SUBJECT: FRESH MEAT EXPORTS-NICARAGUA

REF: MANAGUA 3212

1. ACCORDING TO THE MANAGER OF A MAJOR LOCAL EXPORT PACKING PLANT, NICARAGUAN BEEF EXPORTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976 WILL BE 33 (THIRTY-THREE) MILLION POUNDS. THIS 33 MILLION, ADDED TO THE 28 MILLION PLUS ALREADY EXPORTED THIS YEAR, WOULD BRING TOTAL EXPORTS TO OVER 61 MILLION POUNDS, WELL ABOVE THE QUOTA LEVEL OF 48.9 MILLION POUNDS.

2. THE ESTIMATE OF 33 MILLION POUNDS WAS APPARENTLY ARRIVED AT DURING A CLOSED MEETING OF MAJOR CATTLE RAISERS, REPRESENTATIVES
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OF THE EXPORT PACKING PLANTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION

SECTOR, CALLED TO COORDINATE EXPORT SHIPMENTS IN ORDER TO PREVENT TRANSPORT BOTTLENECKS SUCH AS THOSE THAT DEVELOPED AT THE END OF 1975. THE ESTIMATE COULD CHANGE IF BEEF PRICES CHANGE AND IF WEATHER AND PASTURE CONDITIONS CHANGE.

3. THE BEEF EXPORTERS APPARENTLY FEEL THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SHIP OUTSIDE OF THE QUOTA WHATEVER AMOUNTS OF MEAT THEY WILL HAVE AVAILABLE IN EXCESS OF 48.9 MILLION POUNDS. THEY ARE SEEKING NEW MARKETS, BUT WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT SUCH NEW MARKETS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND THEY ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO EXPORT EXCESS MEAT IN THE FORM OF TWO-INCH CUBES WHICH THEY CLAIM WILL FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF "STEW MEAT". THE EXPORTERS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY A 10 PERCENT DUTY ON SUCH SHIPMENTS OUTSIDE THE QUOTA.

4. THE ESTIMATE OF TOTAL BEEF EXPORTS OF OVER 61 MILLION POUNDS MAY BE SOMEWHAT ON THE HIGH SIDE, GIVEN THE RECENT SUDDEN SLOWDOWN IN EXPORTS AS DESCRIBED IN MANAGUA 3432. BUT CONTINUED FAVORABLE PRICES AND RICH PASTURES COULD INDEED CAUSE HEAVY EXPORTS IN THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 1976. SIXTY-ONE MILLION POUNDS IS BY NO MEANS OUTSIDE THE BALLPARK.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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04 MAY 2006

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Subject: FRESH MEAT EXPORTS-NICARAGUA
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